MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

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COUNTRY LIFE SCHOOL FOR MARYLAND MINISTERS OPENS JULY 26

College Park, Md., July 10.

In response to the demand for a Country Life School Week by ministers attending the pioneer conference for Maryland Ministers in 1914, such a school will be held from July 26th to August 3d, following which the second annual country life conference will be held. The holding of such a school under the auspices of the State College of Agriculture has become a common practice in many states where the College and the rural ministry have realized their need for co-operation fn improving country life conditions. This co-operation is the result of the conviction of the authorities of the agricultural colleges that improved economic conditions in the country do not by themselves tend toward an ideal community life. A community may be rich economically speaking, and yet be a mere pauper in the big things of life. The heart life of a people must grow with their developing material prosperity if a wholesome and happy farm life is to result. That is what the Church furnishes where it enters fully into the activities and interests of its people.

On their part, the ministry have decided that Christ's full message is a broader one than of saving souls, and that to preach merely the message of salvation is to emphasize a selfish motive—that of self preservation, in fact, a type of fire insurance religion, This conviction is best expressed in the words of Dr. G. Walter Fiske, Dean of Oberlin Theological Seminary, who says "The country church has become decadent where it has ceased to stir its community; and it may find its largest aim in the broadest kind of sacrificial service. To do this, the church must furnish the opportunity for the public to worship in simplicity, sincerity, impressiveness and truth. It must perform the priestly function of mediating between God and man, until in the holy place men feel the hush and peace and power of God's presence and go away refreshed and inspired for life's duties. Unless man is pure spirit, the work of the church is more than saving souls. A religion which aims merely to save a man's soul and otherwise neglects him is superficial and fails to appeal to a whole man's manhood."

As a result of this conviction, that the economic and spiritual sides of country life are inseparable, the instruction to be given in the coming Country Life School will be that which will best equip the ministers attending for increasing their influence in developing the life of the country community.

Instruction will be given in Rural Sociology, Rural Economics, Religious Pedagogy, Principles of Agriculture and in many other practical phases of Maryland country life. Full particulars of the course have been published in a free bulletin of the Agricultural College which is now available for distribution.

STATE DEMONSTRATION AGENT SPEAKS ON MORE AND BETTER LIVE STOCK.

College Park, Md., July 10.

At the invitation of Mr. John P. Burdette, president of the Millersville Improvement Association, State Demonstration Agent G. H. Alford addressed the association on the subject of "More and Better Live Stock for Maryland Farmers," thirty farmers being present.

The Millersville Improvement Association is an active rural organization of Anne Arundle county and has done much to promote agricultural progress in that section. Mr. Alford, in his address, showed the great need of the Maryland farmers for more and better live stock, and declared that many thousands of dollars could be saved to the farmers of the State by growing a better grade of live stock on the farms. He said:

"The truth of the business is, whether the stock business appeals to us or not, we will probably be compelled, sooner or later, to raise stock to secure profitable returns from the soil. The time is rapidly approaching when the value of land will be based upon what it will produce and its productivity will depend upon the amount of manure that is made and spread npon it. It may be possible to permanently maintain the fertility of the soil without live stock, but it never has been in the history of the world.

"Before starting the raising of stock, first, make every field on the farm hog and sheep tight; second, have thoroughly good permanent pastures; third, grow leguminous crops; build a silo; and fifth, keep only pure-bred males. These five things are absolutely essential in the most economical production of live stock. Of course, this program calls for some initial labor and expense, but the permanent condition of prosperity in these sections devoted to live-stock production is proof of the good profit derived from live-stock farming."

Following the meeting at Millersville, Mr. Alford addressed the local

grange at Highland, Harford county, on the night of the 7th, speaking along the same general lines of live stock progressiveness, and, incidentally, explaining the nature of the Farm Demonstration Work which is being conducted under his supervision. He stated that thirteen counties of the State had already met the Government halfway in providing funds for the employment of a County Agricultural Agent. Although it is hoped that sometime in the near future every county in Maryland will employ such an Agent, yet, for the present the share of Government funds allowed to the State, provides for the employment of Agents in only three or four more counties. He suggested that if Harford county farmers wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to have a representative of the Co-operative Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural College they will have to take prompt steps.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HOLDS SUMMER MEETING JULY 29-30

College Park, Md., July 12.

The summer meeting of the Maryland State Horticultural Society will be held this year at Pen Mar on July 29 and 30. The society will be royally entertained by fruit growers of that section who are well known throughout the state for their success in growing high grade apples and peaches. A special feature of the meeting will be an excursion under their direction through the country around Smithsburg, Chewsville and Edgemont, all of which towns are well known fruit centers. One of the most serious problems that will be up for discussion at this meeting will be the widespread occurrence of apple blight throughout the state. The members of the Association will also discuss the profitable distribution of the large crop of peaches which is reported in all sections. It is expected that a large number of fruit growers and their friends will take this opportunity to difcuss their various problems and enjoy the natural attractions for which Pen Mar is famous.

ORCHARD DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CONDUCTED ON THE EASTERN SHORE

College Park, Md., July 10.

During the past week a series of orchard demonstrations in thinning and spraying have been conducted on the Eastern Shore by the Extension Service in co-operation with County Agricultural Agents E. P. Walls of Talbot, H. S. Koehler of Queen Anne, and G. B. Porter of Dorchester. Prof. S. B. Shaw, who has charge of this work in the State, reports that the demonstrations are being well attended, and that the improved methods of management recommended are being put into general practice. He says, "Those who have given strict attention to proper thinning and spraying will get the cream of whatever profits are made in fruit this season. Thinning not only causes the development of much finer fruit. but it is a means for conserving the energy and vitality of the trees. Orchards that bear heavily one year do not, as a rule, produce much fruit the following year. While trees are producing a crop of fruit they are also forming buds for the next crop. Overloaded trees cannot well develop a proper number of fruit buds for the following year, consequently many trees perform each function in alternate years. The ideal method of thinning is practically the same as in harvesting. Hand picking is most desirable as it causes less injury to the fruiting wood. Another advantage of this method is that the best developed fruit can be left on the trees. For most ideal results, fruits should not be closer than from four to six inches. When first thinned to this distance they may appear very scattering, and the prospects will not look at all good for a profitable crop, however, if the average size of the fully developed fruit will be kept in mind, it will soon become evident that a normal crop can be expected."

Prof. Shaw has also been urging the spraying of peaches with self-boiled lime sulfur and arsenate of lead to prevent injury from brown rot and other summer dsseases affecting the fruit.

IS ORGANIZING BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUBS IN HIS COUNTY

College Park, Md., July 10.

County Agent G. F. Marsh is meeting with encouragement in Cecil county in connection with Boys' Club Work. This is a most important part of the activities of the County Agricultural Agent and has met with much approval throughout the Southern States. Mr. Marsh, in addition to forming the usual Boys' Corn Club for his county, has gone further by securing local cooperation in forming the boys into neighbiorhood agricultural clubs. The first one to be organized is located at Fair Hill. The boys in this club meet monthly at one or other of the homes of its members and when possible are accompanied by the County Agent to the field of the visited member. Here they inspect the progress his corn is making and spend considerable time discussing what ought to be done to improve their methods. This idea of organizing the boys into community clubs is especially valuable, since it makes them realize that their individual success will be largely determined in the future by the progress they make in improving community conditions and through community co-operation.

To secure more uniform results throughout the State in Boys' Club Work and in recognition of the importance of this activity in our agricultural development, the demonstration field force has recently added to it as Assistant State Agent in Charge of Boys' Club Work, Mr. Reuben Brigham, who has been associated with the Agricultural College during the past two years. As the first step in placing the work on a State-wide basis, Mr. Brigham is visiting each of the County Agents and conferring with them on local problems connected with the extension of Boys' Clubs in their territory. He is at present with County Agent E. P. Walls, of Talbot, where prospects are excellent for a good showing in club work this year in spite of the recent damage in the county by hail.